

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 13, 21, 22, 31 and 40 are amended, and claims 3, 4, 6, 14, and 23 are cancelled, leaving claims 1, 2, 7-13, 16-22, 25-32 and 40-43 pending with claims 1, 13, 22 and 31 being independent. No new matter has been added.

The amendments to the claims are supported at least by the specification on page 11, lines 23-24, page 26, lines 11-12, and page 13, line 12.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13, 16-22, 25-32 and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA (Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, Specification, Pages 1-6) in view of Johnston (4,518,642).

Applicants submit that the claims as now pending are allowable over the cited prior art. Specifically, amended independent claim 1 recites a speaker comprising a diaphragm, wherein the diaphragm is an injection-molded product made of a mixture containing a thermoplastic resin material and a fiber material, the thermoplastic resin material consisting of a crystalline olefin resin or an amorphous olefin resin, and fiber material consisting of one of bamboo and bamboo leaf.

The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious such a speaker. In particular, the Examiner recognizes that the AAPA and Johnston fail to teach that the resin material consists of a crystalline olefin resin or an amorphous olefin resin (*see* Office Action, pg. 6, item 3). Accordingly, the Examiner cites Umetsu as disclosing "a crystalline olefin or an amorphous olefin resin". *See* rejection of claims 3, 14 and 23. However, Applicants submit that Umetsu also fails to disclose "a thermoplastic resin material is a crystalline olefin resin or an amorphous olefin resin", as recited in claim 1. That is, Umetsu does not disclose "a crystalline olefin resin or an amorphous olefin resin", but rather discloses "a liquid crystalline resin compound". The liquid crystalline resin of Umetsu is composed of partially aromatic liquid crystalline polyester resin and wholly aromatic liquid crystalline polyester resin (*See* Abstract). Thus, Umetsu fails to

disclose the specifically recited crystalline olefin resin or amorphous olefin resin of claim 1.

Additionally, there is no reasoning in the prior art to modify the cited prior art such that the combination thereof would have rendered claim 1 obvious. Therefore, the combination of AAPA, Johnston and Umetsu does not render claim 1 obvious, and Applicants submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

With respect to amended independent claims 13, 22, and 31, and their respective dependent claims, Applicants submit that each of these claims and their dependent claims are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above. That is, each of these claims recites that a diaphragm and/or a dust cap is an injection-molded product made of a mixture containing a thermoplastic resin material and a fiber material, the thermoplastic resin material consisting of a crystalline olefin resin or an amorphous olefin resin, the fiber material consisting of one of bamboo and bamboo leaf. The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious such a diaphragm and/or dust cap.

Claims 3, 14 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Johnston (4,518,642) as applied to claims 1, 13 and 22 above, and further in view of Umetsu (5,804,634).

This rejection is moot since each of these claims has been cancelled.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Jeffrey J. Howell/

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